

Re. : Response to Office Action mailed August 23, 2004
Appl. No. : 10/727,065
Filed : December 3, 2003

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A picnic table including an assembled position in which the components are interconnected for use and a disassembled position in which the picnic table can be readily disconnected into separate components to facilitate storage of the picnic table, the picnic table comprising:

a tabletop having a top surface, ~~and~~ a bottom surface, ~~extending between~~ a first end and an opposing second end;

a first table leg pivotally connected to the first end of the table top;

a first seat member having a top surface, ~~and~~ a bottom surface, ~~extending between~~ a first end and a second end;

a first side rail connected to the first seat member;

a second side rail connected to the first seat member;

a first seat leg including a first end pivotally connected to the first end of the first seat member and an opposing second end, the first seat leg movable between a collapsed position and an extended position, the collapsed position including the second end of the first seat leg being disposed proximate the bottom surface of the first seat member, proximate the first side rail and spaced away from the second side rail, the extended position including the second end of the first seat leg spaced apart from the bottom surface of the first seat member;

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a second seat member having a top surface, and a bottom surface, extending between a first end and a second end;

a first side rail connected to the second seat member;

a second side rail connected to the second seat member;

a second seat leg including a first end pivotally connected to the first end of the second seat member and an opposing second end, the second seat leg movable between a collapsed position and an extended position, the collapsed position including the second end of the second seat leg being disposed proximate the bottom surface of the second seat member, proximate the first side rail and spaced away from the second side rail, the extended position including the second end of the second seat leg spaced apart from the bottom surface of the second seat member; and

a first generally C-shaped foot member having an elongate middle portion extending between a first bent end and a second bent end, the elongate middle portion including at least one coupling member;

wherein the at least one coupling member is slidably couplable to the first table leg, the first bent end of the first foot member is slidably and detachably couplable to the first seat leg, and the second bent end of the first foot member is slidably and detachably couplable to the second seat leg.

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2. (Currently Amended) The picnic table as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

a second table leg pivotally connected to the second end of the table top;

a third seat leg pivotally connected to the second end of the first seat member;

a fourth seat leg pivotally connected to the second end of the second seat member;

a second generally C-shaped foot member having an elongate middle portion extending between a first bent end and a second bent end, the elongate middle portion including at least one coupling member;

wherein the at least one coupling member is slidably couplable to the second table leg, the first bent end of the second foot member is slidably and detachably couplable to the third seat leg, and the second bent end of the second foot member is slidably and detachably couplable to the fourth seat leg.

3. (Original) The picnic table as recited in claim 1, wherein the coupling of the first table leg and the at least one coupling member is configured to be selectively adjustable in length so that the picnic table can be selectively adjustable in height.

4. (Cancelled)

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5. (Original) The picnic table as recited in claim 1, further comprising a support assembly having a first end pivotably connected to the first table leg and a second end pivotably connected to the bottom surface of the table top.

6. (Currently Amended) The picnic table as recited in claim 5, further comprising a connecting block formed on the bottom surface of the table top, ~~wherein~~ the second end of the support assembly being is pivotably connected to the connecting block thereto.

7. (Currently Amended) The picnic table as recited in claim 1, further comprising a first storage area formed on the bottom surface of the table top that ~~, wherein the first storage area~~ is configured to receive the first table leg when the tabletop is placed in a storage position.

8. (Currently Amended) The picnic table as recited in claim 1, further comprising a first rotation shaft connected to the first seat leg, the first rotation shaft pivotally connecting the first seat leg to the first side rail and the second side rail of the first seat member. a second frame assembly connected to the bottom surface of the first seat member, the second frame assembly comprising:

~~a pair of spaced apart side rails; and~~

~~a second rotation shaft connected to the first seat leg, wherein opposing ends of the second rotation shaft are connected to each of the pair of spaced apart side rails.~~

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9. (Currently Amended) The picnic table as recited in claim 8, wherein the first seat leg is at an oblique angle with relation to the ~~second~~ first rotation shaft.

10. (Currently Amended) The picnic table as recited in claim 9, wherein the first bent end of the first foot member is bent at an angle complementary to the oblique angle of the first seat leg and the ~~second~~ first rotation shaft.

11. (Currently Amended) The picnic table as recited in claim 1, further comprising a second storage area formed on the bottom surface of the first seat member that , ~~wherein the second storage area~~ is configured to receive the first seat leg when the seat member is placed in a storage position.

12. (Original) The picnic table as recited in claim 1, wherein the table top is constructed of blow molded plastic.

13. (Original) The picnic table as recited in claim 1, wherein the first seat member and the second seat member are constructed of blow molded plastic.

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Please add the following new claims:

14. (New) A picnic table including an assembled position in which a center portion, first and second benches, and first and second connecting members are connected for use and a disassembled position in which the center portion, benches and connecting members are disassembled into separate components to facilitate shipping and storage, the picnic table comprising:

a center portion comprising:

a table top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the table top;

a first leg assembly pivotally connected to the lower portion of the table top, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the table top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the table top to facilitate shipping and storage of the picnic table;
and

a second leg assembly pivotally connected to the lower portion of the table top, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the table top and a collapsed position in which the second leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the table top to facilitate shipping and storage of the picnic table;

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a first bench comprising:

a first bench top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the first bench top;

a first side rail connected to the first bench top;

a second side rail connected to the first bench top;

a first leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the first bench top and an opposing second end, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the first bench top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the first bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the first leg assembly being disposed proximate the first side rail and spaced apart from the second side rail when the first leg assembly is in the collapsed position; and

a second leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the first bench top and an opposing second end, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the first bench top and a collapsed position in which the second leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the first bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the second leg assembly being disposed proximate the first side rail and spaced apart from the second side rail when the second leg assembly is in the collapsed position;

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a second bench comprising:

a second bench top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the second bench top;

a first side rail connected to the second bench top;

a second side rail connected to the second bench top;

a first leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the second bench top and an opposing second end, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the second bench top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the second bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the first leg assembly being disposed proximate the first side rail and spaced apart from the second side rail when the first leg assembly is in the collapsed position; and

a second leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the second bench top and an opposing second end, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the second bench top and a collapsed position in which the second leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the second bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the second leg assembly being disposed proximate the first side rail and spaced apart

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from the second side rail when the second leg assembly is in the collapsed position;

a first connecting member including a first end detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the first bench top, a second end detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the second bench top, and a middle portion detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the table top; and

a second connecting member including a first end detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the first bench top, a second end detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the second bench top, and a middle portion detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the table top.

15. (New) The picnic table as recited in claim 14, wherein the table top includes at least one edge defining an outer perimeter of the table top and wherein at least a portion of the first connecting member is disposed beyond the outer perimeter of the table top and wherein at least a portion of the second connecting member is disposed beyond the outer perimeter of the table top when the picnic table is in the assembled position.

16. (New) The picnic table as recited in claim 14, wherein the first connecting member includes an elongated body, a first end that is disposed at an acute angle relative to the elongated body and a second end that is disposed at an acute angle relative to the elongated body; and wherein the second connecting member includes an elongated body, a first end that is

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disposed at an acute angle relative to the elongated body and a second end that is disposed at an acute angle relative to the elongated body.

17. (New) The picnic table as recited in claim 16, wherein the first leg assembly is disposed at an angle relative to the first bench top, the second leg assembly is disposed at an angle relative to the first bench top, the first leg assembly is disposed at an angle relative to the second bench top, and the second leg assembly is disposed at an angle relative to the second bench top to facilitate attachment of the first connecting member and the second connecting member to the first bench top and the second bench top.

18. (New) The picnic table as recited in claim 14, further comprising a lip generally downwardly extending from the first bench top, the lip including an first elongated side and an opposing second elongated side, the second end of the first leg assembly of the first bench being disposed proximate the first elongated side of the lip of the first bench top and spaced apart from the second elongated side of the lip of the first bench top when the first leg assembly of the first bench is in the collapsed position, the second end of the second leg assembly of the first bench being disposed proximate the first elongated side of the lip of the first bench top and spaced apart from the second elongated side of the lip of the first bench top when the second leg assembly of the first bench is in the collapsed position.

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19. (New) The picnic table as recited in claim 18, further comprising a lip generally downwardly extending from the second bench top, the lip including an first elongated side and an opposing second elongated side, the second end of the first leg assembly of the second bench being disposed proximate the first elongated side of the lip of the second bench top and spaced apart from the second elongated side of the lip of the second bench top when the first leg assembly of the second bench is in the collapsed position, the second end of the second leg assembly of the second bench being disposed proximate the first elongated side of the lip of the second bench top and spaced apart from the second elongated side of the lip of the second bench top when the second leg assembly of the second bench is in the collapsed position.

20. (New) A picnic table including an assembled position in which center portion, first and second benches, and first and second connecting members are connected and a disassembled position in which the center portion, benches and connecting members are disassembled into separate components, the picnic table comprising:

a center portion comprising:

a table top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the table top;

a first leg assembly pivotally connected to the lower portion of the table top, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the table top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the

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lower portion of the table top to facilitate shipping and storage of the picnic table;
and

a second leg assembly pivotally connected to the lower portion of the table top, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the table top and a collapsed position in which the second leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the table top to facilitate shipping and storage of the picnic table;

a first bench comprising:

a first bench top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the first bench top;

a first leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the first bench top and an opposing second end, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the first bench top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the first bench top to facilitate shipping and storage; and

a second leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the first bench top and an opposing second end, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the first bench top and a collapsed position in which the second

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leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the first bench top to facilitate shipping and storage;

a second bench comprising:

a second bench top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the second bench top;

a first leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the second bench top and an opposing second end, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the second bench top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the second bench top to facilitate shipping and storage; and

a second leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the second bench top and an opposing second end, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the second bench top and a collapsed position in which the second leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the second bench top to facilitate shipping and storage;

a first connecting member including a first end detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the first bench top and disposed obliquely to the table top, a second end detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the second bench top and disposed

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obliquely to the table top, and a middle portion detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the table top; and

a second connecting member including a first end detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the first bench top and disposed obliquely to the table top, a second end detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the second bench top and disposed obliquely to the table top, and a middle portion detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the table top.

21. (New) The picnic table as recited in claim 20, wherein the table top includes an outer perimeter and at least a portion of the first connecting member is disposed beyond the outer perimeter of the table top and at least a portion of the second connecting member is disposed beyond the outer perimeter of the table top when the picnic table is in the assembled position.

22. (New) The picnic table as recited in claim 20, wherein the first connecting member includes an elongated body, a first end that is disposed at an acute angle relative to the elongated body and a second end that is disposed at an acute angle relative to the elongated body; and wherein the second connecting member includes an elongated body, a first end that is disposed at an acute angle relative to the elongated body and a second end that is disposed at an acute angle relative to the elongated body.

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23. (New) The picnic table as recited in claim 22, wherein the first leg assembly is disposed at an angle relative to the first bench top, the second leg assembly is disposed at an angle relative to the first bench top, the first leg assembly is disposed at an angle relative to the second bench top, and the second leg assembly is disposed at an angle relative to the second bench top to facilitate attachment of the first connecting member and the second connecting member to the first bench top and the second bench top.

24. (New) A picnic table including an assembled position in which a center portion, first and second benches, and first and second connecting members are connected and a disassembled position in which the center portion, benches and connecting members are disassembled into separate components, the picnic table comprising:

a center portion comprising:

a table top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the table top;

a first leg assembly pivotally connected to the lower portion of the table top, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the table top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the table top to facilitate shipping and storage of the picnic table;
and

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a second leg assembly pivotally connected to the lower portion of the table top, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the table top and a collapsed position in which the second leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the table top to facilitate shipping and storage of the picnic table;

a first bench comprising:

a first bench top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

a generally downwardly extending lip including an first elongated side and an opposing second elongated side;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the first bench top;

a first leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the first bench top and an opposing second end, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the first bench top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the first bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the first leg assembly being disposed proximate the first elongated side of the lip and spaced apart from the second elongated side of the lip when the first leg assembly is in the collapsed position; and

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a second leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the first bench top and an opposing second end, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the first bench top and a collapsed position in which the second leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the first bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the second leg assembly being disposed proximate the first elongated side of the lip and spaced apart from the second elongated side of the lip when the second leg assembly is in the collapsed position;

a second bench comprising:

a second bench top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

a generally downwardly extending lip including an first elongated side and an opposing second elongated side;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the second bench top;

a first leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the second bench top and an opposing second end, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the second bench top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the second bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the first leg assembly being disposed proximate the first elongated side of the lip and spaced

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apart from the second elongated side of the lip when the first leg assembly is in the collapsed position; and

a second leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the second bench top and an opposing second end, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the second bench top and a collapsed position in which the second leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the second bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the second leg assembly being disposed proximate the first elongated side of the lip and spaced apart from the second elongated side of the lip when the second leg assembly is in the collapsed position;

a first connecting member including a first end detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the first bench, a second end detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the second bench, and a middle portion detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the table top; and

a second connecting member including a first end detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the first bench, a second end detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the second bench, and a middle portion detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the table top.

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25. (New) The picnic table as recited in claim 24, further comprising a first side rail connected to the first bench top and a second side rail connected to the first bench top, the second end of the first leg assembly of the first bench being disposed proximate the first side rail of the first bench and spaced apart from the second side rail of the first bench when the first leg assembly of the first bench is in the collapsed position, the second end of the second leg assembly of the first bench being disposed proximate the first side rail of the first bench and spaced apart from the second side rail of the first bench when the second leg assembly of the first bench is in the collapsed position.

26. (New) The picnic table as recited in claim 25, further comprising a first side rail connected to the second bench top and a second side rail connected to the second bench top, the second end of the first leg assembly of the second bench being disposed proximate the first side rail of the second bench and spaced apart from the second side rail of the second bench when the first leg assembly of the second bench is in the collapsed position, the second end of the second leg assembly of the second bench being disposed proximate the first side rail of the second bench and spaced apart from the second side rail of the second bench when the second leg assembly of the second bench is in the collapsed position.

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27. (New) A picnic table including an assembled position in which a center portion, first and second benches, and first and second connecting members are connected and a disassembled position in which the center portion, benches and connecting members are disassembled into separate components, the picnic table comprising:

a center portion comprising:

a table top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the table top;

a first leg assembly pivotally connected to the lower portion of the table top, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the table top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the table top to facilitate shipping and storage of the picnic table;
and

a second leg assembly pivotally connected to the lower portion of the table top, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the table top and a collapsed position in which the second leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the table top to facilitate shipping and storage of the picnic table;

a first bench comprising:

a first bench top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

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a generally downwardly extending lip including a pair of elongated opposing sides;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the first bench top;

a first leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the first bench top and an opposing second end, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the first bench top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the first bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the first leg assembly being disposed toward one of the elongated opposing sides of the lip and away from the other of the elongated opposing sides of the lip when the first leg assembly is in the collapsed position; and

a second leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the first bench top and an opposing second end, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the first bench top and a collapsed position in which the second leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the first bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the second leg assembly being disposed toward one of the elongated opposing sides of the lip and away from the other of the elongated opposing sides of the lip when the second leg assembly is in the collapsed position;

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a second bench comprising:

a second bench top constructed from blow-molded plastic;

a generally downwardly extending lip including a pair of elongated opposing sides;

a storage area formed in a lower portion of the second bench top;

a first leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the second bench top and an opposing second end, the first leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the first leg assembly extends outwardly from the second bench top and a collapsed position in which the first leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the second bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the first leg assembly being disposed toward one of the elongated opposing sides of the lip and away from the other of the elongated opposing sides of the lip when the first leg assembly is in the collapsed position; and

a second leg assembly including a first end connected to the lower portion of the second bench top and an opposing second end, the second leg assembly being movable between an extended position in which the second leg assembly extends outwardly from the second bench top and a collapsed position in which the second leg assembly is disposed within the storage area in the lower portion of the second bench top to facilitate shipping and storage, the second end of the second leg assembly being disposed toward one of the elongated opposing sides

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of the lip and away from the other of the elongated opposing sides of the lip when the second leg assembly is in the collapsed position;

a first connecting member including a first end detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the first bench top, a second end detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the second bench top, and a middle portion detachably connected to the first leg assembly of the table top; and

a second connecting member including a first end detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the first bench top, a second end detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the second bench top, and a middle portion detachably connected to the second leg assembly of the table top.